

was not true. It was not true because the design of the bill forbids people from keeping health insurance plans in many cases—not all cases but many cases—and the authors of the bill and the supporters of the bill and the people who voted for the bill knew full well that one of the purposes of the bill was to establish government-approved standards for all insurance plans.

If your plan did not meet those standards, you were going to lose your plan. So this is what some folks have written to us about this promise, that if you like your health plan you can keep your health plan. This was just 2 days ago, a gentleman from Lancaster County from Pennsylvania wrote:

As my Congressional representative, you need to know how ObamaCare is harming my life and health care.

I work for a small construction company. My cost for family health care was already over \$11,000 per year. We received notification that our policy was being cancelled since it did not comply with the requirements of the "Affordable Care Act."

Our company looked for the best rates they could find for comparable coverage which did comply. They chose a new insurance company. We just recently were given the costs for next year. My cost to cover myself and my family will be over \$17,500 per year (a 59-percent increase). Even with that, the deductibles and out of pocket maximums are higher. This is not "Affordable Care." This would eat up a major part of my income.

I attempted to log onto the healthcare.gov website several times, but always get kicked out. I do not hold up much hope that I will get any better rates, because I do not qualify for a credit.

We were already struggling to live on my take home pay. We cannot afford to have it reduced by over \$6,500. We may have to drop health coverage for my wife or kids, and pay the penalty.

I suspect this law will result in many more people losing their health care, at the expense of a few getting free or reduced healthcare.

Another from a gentleman from Cumberland County last week.

My wife Barb and I have been trying for almost three weeks to get signed up. . . . all income and health info and private information is on the unsecured Web site and the application is accepted . . . but we have not been able to get on and pick the plan or get our price. . . . so nobody has been paid. Thus our cancelled insurance ends on December 31st and we look to be out.

A BIG mistake by the folks that voted for this . . . I've had cancer a couple times, my wife has had cancer and we both see our doctors when needed. This ACA will ruin many families if we can't get on to an insurance plan.

These folks are not only losing the insurance they have, but they have not been able to get an alternative plan.

A woman from Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, last week sent me this email.

We had our healthcare discontinued, and after an appeal were able to get it reinstated, but only for this year. Currently we have a healthcare savings plan, with a deductible of \$3,000 a year. . . . In the new plan, our deductible would increase to \$12,000 . . . and our premiums would increase to \$9,000 a year. How is a middle class married family supposed to pay for that?

This is absolutely ridiculous, and this is our situation. I hope every government worker has to purchase their plan through this plan.

A gentleman from Delaware County sent me this email last week.

I am 66 and I am on Medicare. My wife, Mary Ann is 63. Her insurance company canceled her "longstanding" policy due to the requirements of the ACA. Her "new" policy costs \$350 more per month. We are on a strict budget. . . . We are the hard working middle class. Who stands for us?

A small business owner in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, December 3, 2013:

I am a small business owner with 3 employees looking for health insurance. My old policy is being canceled and was offered a replacement policy which is 68% higher than the old policy with higher deductibles. I went through the healthcare.gov site and was quoted an individual policy for my family which is 74 percent higher, with higher deductibles.

When do I see affordable health care for my family?

I have been self-employed for 19 years and have paid for my insurance all these years myself. With deductibles I am looking at \$26,000 out of pocket for health insurance this year. Please Help!

Another promise that we heard—these were people, real people who were demonstrating how untrue was the promise that you could keep the health insurance plan that you have. But there was another promise we heard frequently and that promise was, "If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period." The President added that flourish at the end, "period," just to emphasize. These are the President's words: "If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor, period."

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1471. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of the Army to reconsider decisions to inter or honor the memory of a person in a national cemetery, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in

which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1992. An act to amend the requirements relating to assessment of Israel's qualitative military edge over military threats, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2019. An act to eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2319. An act to clarify certain provisions of the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994.

H.R. 3212. An act to ensure compliance with the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by countries with which the United States enjoys reciprocal obligations, to establish procedures for the prompt return of children abducted to other countries, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1471. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of the Army to reconsider decisions to inter or honor the memory of a person in a national cemetery, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2871. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify the composition of the southern judicial district of Mississippi to improve judicial efficiency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2922. An act to extend the authority of the Supreme Court Police to protect court officials away from the Supreme Court grounds.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 8:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3695. An act to provide a temporary extension of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and amendments made by that Act, as previously extended and amended and with certain additional modifications and exceptions, to suspend permanent price support authorities, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 72. Concurrent resolution providing for corrections to the enrollment of H.J. Res. 59.

The message also announced that the House recedes from its amendment to the amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, and agrees to the amendment of the Senate with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated: